



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
District of Rhode Island

**UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE PATRICIA A. SULLIVAN TO
RETIRE FROM SERVICE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 2, 2026**

Magistrate Judge Patricia A. Sullivan of the United States District Court of the District of Rhode Island has advised the judges of the Court that she will retire on October 2, 2026, after more than 14 years of dedicated service. Judge Sullivan has diligently served as a Magistrate Judge in the District of Rhode Island since October 1, 2012.

Judge Sullivan graduated from Wellesley College with honors in 1973, and Georgetown University Law Center *magna cum laude* in 1978. Prior to her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Sullivan was a private litigator at Edwards & Angell, LLP for 34 years.

Throughout her tenure, Judge Sullivan has exemplified the highest standards of judicial service. Her diligence, intellectual rigor, and thoughtful decision-making have left an indelible mark on the District. Known for her patience, compassion, and meticulous attention to detail, Judge Sullivan earned the respect of her colleagues, the bar, and the litigants who appeared before her.

Judge Sullivan played an integral role in the success of the District's HOPE (Helping Offenders Prepare for reEntry) Court, an alternative supervision reentry court program focused on supporting individuals returning to the community after incarceration. Her dedication to HOPE Court reflects her deep belief in the potential for rehabilitation and second chances, and her efforts have changed lives across the District.

Upon learning of Judge Sullivan's decision to retire, Chief Judge John J. McConnell, Jr. remarked, "Judge Sullivan's judicial career has been marked by excellence, integrity, and humanity. Her leadership on the bench and her work with the HOPE Court reflect her unwavering commitment to justice and her belief in the dignity of every individual. We are grateful for her many contributions to this Court and to the broader Rhode Island community."

Judge Sullivan's decision to retire creates the potential opportunity for the Court to appoint a successor as outlined in 28 U.S. Code § 633. In addition to Judge Sullivan, the Court is comprised of Chief Judge John J. McConnell, Jr., Judge Mary S. McElroy, Judge Melissa R. DuBose, Senior Judge William E. Smith, and Magistrate Judge Amy. E. Moses.

July 9, 2025

Hanorah Tyer-Witek
Clerk of Court